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HASC

USIA

DEPARTMENT FOR EUR/P;
USIA FOR P/M, P/G, EU (ASQUINO);
DEFENSE FOR ISP.

E.O. 12356: N/A
SUBJECT: U.S. CONGRESS RECOMMENDS DEFENSE
. BURDEN SHARING: MEDIA COMMENT
. (AUGUST 8-9, 1988)

1. SUMMARY. ALL AUGUST 8 MORNING DAILIES CARRIED WIRE-BASED STORIES REFERRING TO THE U.S. CONGRESS' RECENTLY-RELEASED REPORT RECOMMENDING THE "PARTIAL WITHDRAWAL OF U.S. TROOPS FROM EUROPE IN ORDER TO PRESSURE EUROPEAN ALLIES TO INCREASE THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS" TO THE COMMON DEFENSE. AN 8/9 EDITORIAL ON THE REPORT'S RECOMMENDATION IN "DIARIO DE NOTICIAS" NOTED THAT IMPLEMENTATION OF SUCH A WITHDRAWAL WOULD "HELP THE KREMLIN REACH AN AS YET UNATTAINED GOAL: CAUSE DIVISIONS IN THE WEST AND SEPARATE THE TWO PILLARS ON WHICH WESTERN DEFENSE STRATEGY IS BASED." END SUMMARY.

2. AUGUST 8 PAPERS QUOTED EXCERPTS OF THE CONGRESSIONAL REPORT AND NOTED IN PART: "... THE DOCUMENT, PREPARED BY THE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, REFLECTS THE CURRENT FEELING IN CONGRESS THAT THE U.S. IS SHOULDERING THE MAJOR BURDEN OF ALLIED DEFENSE."

"THE DOCUMENT ALSO NOTES THAT ALTHOUGH THE REAGAN ADMINISTRATION CONCURS WITH SUCH A PROPOSAL, IT PREFERS TO USE PERSUASION RATHER THAN PRESSURE ON ITS ALLIES."

3. ON AUGUST 9, A BALANCED EDITORIAL ON THE CONGRESSIONAL REPORT IN LISBON'S LEADING, INDEPENDENT DAILY, "DIARIO DE NOTICIAS" WAS TITLED "THE 'THREAT' OF THE REPRESENTATIVES." DN NOTED THAT ALTHOUGH THE U.S. HAS "SOME BASIS FOR RESENTMENT...AND FOR DEMANDING GREATER EFFORTS FROM ITS ALLIES FOR THEIR OWN DEFENSE...IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PARTIAL WITHDRAWAL OF U.S. TROOPS WOULD HELP THE KREMLIN REACH AN AS YET UNATTAINED GOAL: CAUSE DIVISIONS IN THE WEST AND

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SEPARATE THE TWO PILLARS OF WESTERN DEFENSE STRATEGY."

4. PERTINENT QUOTES:
"THIS IS NOT THE FIRST TIME THAT THE U.S. DISPLAYS A TENDENCY TOWARD ISOLATIONISM IN THE HIGHEST LEVELS OF POWER.... THIS ATTITUDE IN AN INFLUENTIAL SECTOR OF AMERICAN PUBLIC OPINION...IS ONCE AGAIN MADE CLEAR IN THE REPORT BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES' ARMED FORCES COMMITTEE...."

"THIS POSTURE...AGREES WITH THE ISOLATIONIST TENDENCY THAT HAS LONG OCCUPIED AN IMPORTANT PLACE WITH U.S. 'OPINION MAKERS' AND HAS THE APPROVAL OF HIGH-POWERED FIGURES OF THE AMERICAN POLITICAL UNIVERSE...SUCH AS HENRY KISSINGER...."

"ONE CAN UNDERSTAND THE RESENTMENT THAT MAY UNDERLY THIS ATTITUDE AND THE U.S. DOES NOT LACK FOR GOOD ARGUMENTS OR MORAL AUTHORITY TO REQUEST GREATER EFFORTS FROM THE EUROPEAN ALLIES FOR THEIR OWN DEFENSE. AFTER ALL THE U.S. COMMITMENT...HAS BEEN CLEARLY DEMONSTRATED IN TWO SUCCESSIVE WORLD WARS AND ...(HAS) REMAINED CONSTANT DURING THE FOLLOWING FOUR DECADES...ALTHOUGH ONE COULD SAY--AS DID KISSINGER IN 1984--THAT 'EUROPEAN BEHAVIOR BASICALLY HAS BEEN LIKE THAT OF SOMEONE FORCED TO INVITE AN UNWANTED GUEST TO DINNER.'"

"ONE DOES KNOW, ON THE OTHER HAND, THAT THE U.S.' ATTITUDE AND ITS PROVEN LOYALTY TOWARDS THE EUROPEAN ALLIES ARE NOT ENTIRELY THE EXPRESSION OF TOTALLY DISINTERESTED ALTRUISM. IT HAS ALSO BEEN SHOWN THAT SEVERAL TIMES DURING THIS CENTURY, AMERICA'S OWN DEFENSE WAS PLAYED OUT IN EUROPE, AND THAT WASHINGTON'S MILITARY EFFORTS, BOTH IN TIMES OF WAR AND PEACE, HAS NOT BEEN GRATUITOUS AS CONCERNS HER OWN SECURITY."

"THAT IS WHY (THIS) RECOMMENDATION...TAKES ON PARTICULAR MEANING WITHIN AN INTERNAL AND FOREIGN
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USIA

DEPARTMENT FOR EUR/P;
USIA FOR P/M, P/G, EU (ASQUINO);
DEFENSE FOR ISP.

E.O. 12356: N/A
SUBJECT: U.S. CONGRESS RECOMMENDS DEFENSE POLITICAL CONTEXT...."

"THE COMMISSION'S REPORT APPEARS IN THE MIDDLE OF A PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN AND AT A TIME WHEN THE BEST-PLACED CANDIDATE IS FROM THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY. THUS THE IDEA OF A POSSIBLE TROOP WITHDRAWAL FROM EUROPE GAINS GREATER CONSENSUS AMONG THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE TWO BIG PARTIES. IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN IF IT MIGHT TURN INTO THE OFFICIAL POLICY OF THE ADMINISTRATION. THIS ISSUE CANNOT LEAVE EUROPEAN POLITICAL LEADERS INDIFFERENT OR UNMOVED."

"MOREOVER, THE REPRESENTATIVES 'THREAT' IS MADE FEW WEEKS AFTER GORBACHEV'S PROPOSAL FOR A EUROPEAN SUMMIT TO ANALYSE SECURITY ISSUES, A SUMMIT WHICH, ACCORDING TO THE PROPOSAL, WOULD EXCLUDE THE U.S. AND CANADA. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PARTIAL AMERICAN WITHDRAWAL WOULD CONFORM, IN A WAY, TO THE FULFILLMENT OF A

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LONG-PURSUED, BUT UNATTAINED, KREMLIN GOAL: TO CAUSE DIVISION IN THE WESTERN THEATER, (THUS) SEPARATING THE TWO PILLARS ON WHICH ITS DEFENSE STRATEGY IS BASED. SHOULD THIS HAPPEN, WE WOULD BE WITNESSING ONE OF THE TREACHEROUS CONSEQUENCES FOR EUROPE THAT THE 'PERESTROIKA' OF GORBACHEV'S MAY WELL PRODUCE."

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5. HEADLINES:
--U.S. CONGRESSIONAL REPORT CALLS FOR PARTIAL TROOP WITHDRAWAL FROM EUROPE," DIARIO DE NOTICIAS (INDEPENDENT);
--"U.S. TROOPS IN EUROPE: CONGRESS RECOMMENDS PARTIAL WITHDRAWAL," O DIA (RIGHTIST);
--"U.S. CONGRESS 'FRIGHTENS' ALLIES," CORREIO DA MANHA (RIGHT-OF-CENTER TABLOID);
--"EUROPEAN DEFENSE A BURDEN TO THE U.S.," O SECULO (CONSERVATIVE).
SHAW
END OF MESSAGE UNCLASSIFIED

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